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SENATE BILL 681 By
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HOUSE BILL 1633
By Bowers

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, relative to
AIDS Centers of Excellence.

WHEREAS, the AIDS Centers of Excellence consist of a coordinated network of clinics and private practices across the state of Tennessee, providing a comprehensive approach to AIDS and HIV treatment; and

WHEREAS, under the Centers of Excellence all HIV positive patients enrolled in TennCare have the option of referral to a Center of Excellence for medical management and the utilization of uniform treatment protocols developed by experts in the care of HIV; and

WHEREAS, those patients enrolled in a Center of Excellence will benefit through the utilization of treatment guidelines developed by consensus and continuously revised to reflect the current standard of care, an increased focus on research and evaluation, and a quick response to changes in technology; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 10, is amended by adding the following as a new section thereto:

68-10-118. (a) The commissioner of health shall establish an AIDS Center of Excellence advisory committee to advise the department of health in the designation of AIDS Centers of Excellence, provide quality assurance monitoring for the centers, and the establishment and review of policies for continuation of the AIDS Centers of Excellence.

(b) The committee shall be appointed by the commissioner of health, and shall be composed of the commissioner of health or the commissioner's designee, who shall serve as chair; the director of communicable and environmental disease services within the Tennessee department of health; three (3) physicians licensed in the state of Tennessee, each representing a grand division of the state and actively involved in the delivery of HIV/AIDS care; an attorney licensed in the state of Tennessee; a nurse licensed in the state of Tennessee and actively involved in the delivery of HIV/AIDS care; a social worker licensed in the state of Tennessee and actively involved in the delivery of HIV/AIDS care; and two (2) at-large members currently living with HIV/AIDS.

(c) The members' appointments shall be staggered as follows: four (4) members to be appointed for a term of three (3) years; two (2) members for a term of four (4) years; and the remaining members for a term of two (2) years. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term shall serve the remainder of that term.

(d) The committee shall meet as frequently as the commissioner deems necessary, but not less than once each year. The committee members shall receive no compensation but will be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in carrying out their duties as members of this committee. All reimbursements for travel expenses shall be in accordance with the provisions of the comprehensive

travel regulations as promulgated by the department of finance and
administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring
it.